

• Abroad •

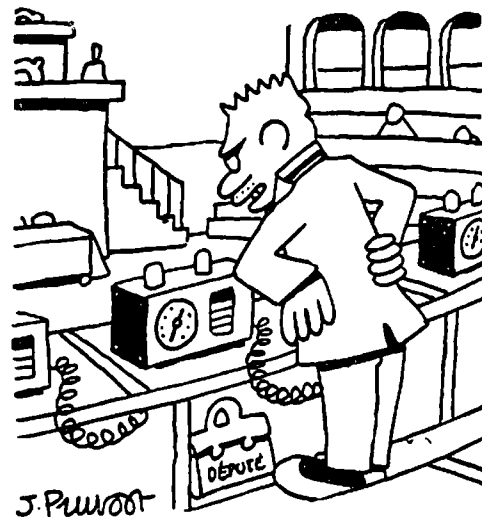
Maisons-Lafitte, France. *Kultura*—the remarkable Poland-in-exile publishing center that since the war's end has done so much to stiffen Polish resistance to Moscow and to keep Polish intellectuals linked to Western and world thought through its monthly magazine and its dozens of translated books (Malraux, Koestler, Orwell, Burnham, Eliot, Djilas, Pasternak . . .) sent into Poland—has just issued in the original language a large anthology of modern Ukrainian writing. Methods have been found for distribution inside the Ukraine as well as to Ukrainian nationality groups throughout the world. Russian Intelligence is alarmed at this new enterprise, which for all its modesty they know to be charged with an explosive political potential. *Kultura* is striking psychologically at the most sensitive point of Moscow's Achilles' heel—"the nationality question"—the vulnerability of which has just been shown by Khrushchev's infuriated bellows whenever it was even hinted at. But at the same time, by publishing this Ukrainian volume, *Kultura* is also projecting the plan for an East European Federation, which is the serious and positive content of the idea of a liberated eastern Europe.

Paris, France. The distinguished French writer, Rémy Roure, showed by his comments on Khrushchev's Universal Disarmament Plan that Communist propaganda has lost its former power to seduce the civilized European mind: "If we should press the master of the Kremlin a bit, would we not get him to admit that he himself believes in this Golden Age of Peace, in this grandiose fairyland, only on the condition of the universal triumph of Communism—a triumph which was brought about in Soviet Russia only at the cost of bloody hecatombs and the total suppression of human liberties; and which can be maintained only—as in Hungary—at the further cost of pitiless repressions? Mr. Khrushchev wants to secure the happiness of human beings through peace, but a happiness after his own conception, defined by ideologues, ordered by despots, and imposed on peoples whom he disdains to consult. Tibor Dery and his imprisoned Hungarian comrades would be able to tell us something, from their cells, about this fairyland of peace, fraternity and universal happiness."

London, England. Although they outwardly repeated the pious "all for the UN" formulas that are required by international etiquette, many members of the Macmillan government became increasingly skeptical of the UN's value as they observed its actual effects on British and Western interests. They are particularly disturbed at the braking and veto power over Western action that has been acquired by the rapidly spawning small nations through their ability to threaten an adverse vote in the UN Assembly. This has already become a formidable problem in relation to African affairs. Assuming a Tory victory in the election, it is probable that Mr. Macmillan's new Cabinet will send out feelers to Washington and Paris,

seeking to find new ways for bypassing the UN on certain matters, and for deflating the absurdly exaggerated attention paid to the votes of such nominal states as Yemen, Ghana and Guinea.

Paris, France. French deputies and senators return this week to their legislative labors—not too onerous under the Fifth Republic—to find their chambers equipped with the world's first electronic recorder. Each member will get a special key, similar to an auto ignition key. When a decision is called for, he will insert it in one of three keyholes on his desk-top, marked *Yes*, *No*, *Abstain*. Within a micro-second the result will flash forth on screens mounted each side of the Speaker (according to plan, at any rate—there were a few electronic bugs in last week's secret trial run). The Russians are said to be so favorably impressed with the new system—often proposed for the U.S. Congress—that they are going to copy it for the Supreme Soviet, with one improvement to bring it fully up to date: computers will take the place of the legislators.



Le Figaro

THE VOTING MACHINE

"Pooh! Not even an outlet for an electric razor!"

Warsaw, Poland. On September 28 Cardinal Wyszyński preached a short sermon before a small congregation at the Church of St. Anne, from which a famous relic of St. Ladislas—patron of Warsaw—had recently been stolen. The gist of his remarks, circulating by word of mouth, has gravely disturbed public opinion. The Cardinal attributed the theft to a stepped-up anti-religious campaign in the official press, and declared that "times have again become dark for the Church in Poland." He referred to "all sorts of methods being used to interfere with or suppress altogether religious instruction in the Polish schools." He seemed to be warning Poles of a new period of tension between the Polish Church and the government.

Oslo, Norway. The Norwegian Communist Party, which has in the past been relatively strong, lost heavily in last week's municipal elections, while every other party—most notably the Agrarian, a center group—gained. This completes a development in western Europe which leaves only France and Italy with domestic Communist parties of any considerable size and strength relative to the non-Communist parties.

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